APPOINTMENT IN THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

3295. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that two officers working on the non-Government's side of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research been appointed or given the charge without formal appointment as Commissioners in the Agriculture Department, if so, the details thereof ;

(b) whether any approval has been received from the Union Cabinet, if not the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted by Government against the persons;

(d) if so, the findings of inquiry in this regard and what action has been proposed by the enquiry officer ;

(e) whether Government have proposed to replace the guilty officer till final decision in the matter and to avoid tampering with records, influencing the cause of enquiry/investigation ; and

(f) if not, what are the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) Two officers of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) are holding current charge of the duties of Agriculture Commissioner and Animal Husbandry Commissioner till the posts are filled up on regular basis.

(b) Approval of Agricultural Minister had been obtained. Steps have been initiated to obtain the approval of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.

(c) A Preliminary inquiry was conducted against one of the officers.

(d) Some administrative and Financial irregularities committed by the officer were detected. Suspension of the officer and the change of his headquarters were recommended. Departmental proceedings have also been initiated.

(e) The officer was placed under suspension and the headquarters of the officer were changed and he was posted to the I.C.A.R. Headquarters at New Delhi.

(f) Question does not arise.

INCREASE IN PRICE OF VEGETABLES

3296. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of abnormal increase in the prices of vegetables particularly tomato, potato, onion etc. during the last 4 months;

(b) if so, what are the details of the increase and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to arrest the increase in prices in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The wholesale prices of vegetables varied from place to place. The percentage increase at major centres was as follows :

Percentage increase in the wholesale prices during September, to December, 1993

Commodity	Markets				
	Delhi	Bombay	Bangalore	Calcutta	Madras
Tomato	(+)50.5	(+)260.0	(+)109.7	(+)62.8	(+)36.2
Potato . . .	(−)46.0	(+)13.6	(+)87.0	(+)4.8	(+)62.5
Onion	(+)62.9	(+)63.8	(+)107.3	(+)88.8	(+)75.2